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| Book          | Policy Manual                                     |
| Section       | Section B: School Board Governance and Operations |
| Title         | Public Participants at Board Meetings             |
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### **Public Participation at Board Meetings**

#### **Office/Custodian - Board of Education/Senior Executive Assistant to the BOE/Legal Counsel**

Purpose: The Board welcomes and appreciates comments on school operations and programs in District 49. Public forum time may be scheduled during regular and special board sessions. Public comments will not be scheduled at work sessions. A sign-up computer will be available for individuals at the beginning of the school board meeting. The Board shall limit the total length of public participation to thirty minutes and limit the length of individual comments to two minutes.

Members of the public wishing to make formal presentations before the Board must notify the Senior Executive Assistant to the Board of Education fourteen days prior to the Board meeting date and receive approval from the Board president.

During public comment, comments and questions at a regular meeting may deal with topics related to the Board's conduct of the schools. Comments at special meetings are limited to topics on the agenda. Speakers are asked to make comments in a respectful and orderly manner. To fulfill our values of trust and respect, we decline to create a forum for attacks or criticism against specific staff members, students, or other stakeholders. Therefore, with the exception of members of the board or the Superintendent, personal complaints against any individuals connected with the school system are prohibited in this forum. Therefore, as soon as an individual employee's name is mentioned with any negative, derogatory, or accusatory perspective, that speaker's comment time shall end immediately. The Chair may end any speaker's comments at any time, if deemed by the chair to be inappropriate, intimidating or threatening. Violations may result in a suspension of any speaker's ability to participate in open forum. The speaker may seek to regain the privilege to speak at open forum through the grievance process.

The Chair shall be responsible for recognizing all speakers, maintaining proper order and adherence to time limits. Follow-up action items may be assigned to the Superintendent by consensus of the board. Members of the public will not be recognized by the Chair during Board meetings except as noted in this policy.

In addition to public participation time during Board meetings, the Board is committed to engaging members of the community on an ongoing basis regarding community values about education. The public is encouraged to contact the Board of Education members by phone, letter or via email through the district [Board of Education Website](#) at any time.

For the 1st 30 minutes Public Comment section of the meeting, all comments must be relevant to Action or Discussion Items on that meeting's agenda. To ensure that we hear from a variety of participants in board meetings, priority should be given to speakers who have not addressed the board publicly within the prior month.

Speakers should further be prioritized by the chair as follow:

- 1st 5 slots (as needed) reserved for D-49 Students, parents or legal guardians of active D49 students and D49 Staff
- Active Members of formal district committees, such as SEAC, DAAC, etc.
- District residents or District Taxpayers regardless of residence.
- All Others

The 2nd Public Comment section of the meeting shall not exceed 30 minutes, will consist of any relevant education topic in whatever order the chair deems appropriate, and the chair may use discretion in allowing up to 2 minute comments, so long as the 2nd Public Comment section of the meeting does not last more than 30 minutes.

C.R.S. 24-6-401 et seq. (open meeting laws)

Cross References   BEDB – Agenda

KE – Stakeholder Concerns and Complaints